

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Worship during COVID-19 Modification Plan

This mitigation plan follows mandates and guidelines established by the State of Alaska and the Alaska Synod of the ELCA. It is intended to allow in-person worship while mitigating the risk of COVID-19 transmission for our safety. We recognize that individuals have varying perspectives on the appropriate response to the ongoing situation. It is our duty and responsibility to show our Christian love for one another by making these important, temporary changes in our worship habits.

Communication: This plan will be distributed by email, on the church website, printed by request, posted on the entry doors, and announced when gathering in worship.

Parameters for Gathering: We will use the Department of Health and Social Services Alert Level guidelines to determine if gathering in-person is a reasonably safe choice. Using the Alert Level map found at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/alertlevels.aspx>, we look at the 14-day average case rate to determine the following:

>21 case rate: worship will be online only, risk is too high

11-20 case rate: worship will be in person, masks required upon entry, masks remain on during worship

5-10 case rate: worship will be in person, masks required upon entry, may be removed when worship begins

<5 case rate: worship will be in person, masks are optional upon entry

All will be expected to abide by the following guidelines:

Illness: Any person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or any flu-like symptoms may not enter the premises.

Occupancy and Distancing: Six-foot distancing will be observed by all non-household members.* To maintain this recommended distancing, chairs have been spaced around the sanctuary. Overflow distanced seating will be on the kitchen level with a TV streaming worship.

Face Coverings: Face coverings must be worn over nose and mouth as everyone enters and exits the church (unless noted above). Depending on FNSB metrics, verbal instructions will be given if masks must remain on or if they can be removed during worship.

Enter and Sanitize, Sanitize and Exit: Signage clearly indicates entry and exit doors. When entering the building, all persons will sanitize hands before moving directly to the sanctuary. No one may congregate at the door. Coats will be removed and hung over the back of the chair.

Contact Tracing: The Pastor will keep a record of attendees for each service through ICON software. Visitors will be asked for their name and phone number. When case rate exceeds 10, those entering the building during the week will be asked to sign in to aid in contact tracing.

Worship Materials: All worship materials will be projected on the screen. Bibles and/or hymnals will be left on seats for use and be untouched between services.

Finding a Seat: As people enter, an usher with mask and gloved hands will greet them at the top of the stairs with a small bulletin for announcements and will direct them to an open space to sit based on the size of their household. When sanctuary seating is full, usher then moves to the entry level and directs people to sit downstairs. A second usher with mask directs people where to sit on the kitchen level.

Worship Alterations: To mitigate aerosol projection,
Singing as a group will be only be done with masks
Communal Prayers will be said while seated
Sharing Peace will be creatively shared in place with appropriate gestures
Offering will be placed in a basket upon entry/exit
Communion Cups will be picked up upon entry and consumed while seated

Fellowship: Until further notice, self-serve coffee and food after worship is suspended. Persons are welcome to visit after worship while wearing face coverings and maintaining six-foot distance guidelines.

Cleaning after Worship: A team of volunteers will remain after everyone has left the building to wipe, spray, or otherwise clean high-touch surfaces and bathrooms. Their tasks will include:

Wipe all handrails; exterior door's handles and bar; all interior doorknobs; elevator doors, buttons, and handle; and light switches.

Wipe high-touch surfaces in all 3 bathrooms: flush handle, toilet seats and lids, countertop, soap dispenser, faucet, light switch.

** Some have chosen to draw their circle of interaction to include Lord of Life-ers throughout the pandemic. When gathering in worship, their group may not exceed 10 people.*